



## Job Description

### Nature-based Early Childhood Education

#### Internship

##### **Overview:**

Wonderbloom: Nature Playschool is a non-profit, licensed, nature-based early childhood education (ECE) program. Wonderbloom was the first nature-based preschool to be established in Salt Lake City by Dr. Sarah Stone. She was inspired by the philosophy of European "Forest Schools," where children spend most of the school time in the outdoors -- learning through interaction with nature. Nature-based learning is increasing in popularity throughout the United States because these types of schools have many benefits - some of which include: increased creativity, greater impulse control, stronger immune system, reduced obesity, better psychological well-being, advanced cognitive skills, increased positive social skills, and more positive attitudes toward nature and the environment. Wonderbloom is based in an outdoor classroom and we take a holistic approach to learning by focusing on Mind (developmentally-appropriate school readiness), Body (yoga and organic nutrition), and Soul (relationships with each other and nature).

The value of this internship is more than just credit hours. The intern we choose will receive first-hand experience with a nature-based learning approach, which will make them very marketable as they seek employment. In addition, the intern will get a behind-the-scenes look at the logistics and business side of a start-up school. This will be valuable knowledge if they plan to open their own preschool in the future.

##### **Starting Date:**

August 26, 2019 - Dec 13, 2019 or January 6, 2020-May 1, 2020

Earn 2-3 Credit hours in exchange for 6-9 hours/week; Required Tues/Thurs 8:30am-11:30am and Friday 12-1pm or Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-1pm

##### **Ideal Candidate:**

The ideal candidate is majoring in early childhood education or a related field and embodies an interest in, and passion for, nature-based learning. In addition, the candidate will be self-motivated, and communicate empathetically and confidently with children, parents, and supervisors. The candidate will be organized, reliable, and impervious to the natural elements. It is important that the candidate is motivated to deal with the demands of a start-up school and provide flexibility and innovation with the team.

##### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Assist in generating weekly, outdoor, nature-based lesson plans that reflect the values, mission and vision of the school.
- Assist in managing a class of up to 20 students from 3-5.5 years old and provide a safe and supportive environment both indoor and outdoor.
- Help to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of lesson plans.
- Implement daily schedule and routines with teachers and parent volunteers.
- Plan, prep, serve, and clean up snacks.
- Strictly adhere to school's policies and procedures in conjunction with regulations set forth by the Department of Health's Child Care Licensing program.
- Set up and take down indoor and outdoor classroom, when needed.
- Assist in determining individual student needs and goals and track progress.
- Attend weekly staff meetings (Fridays 12-1pm).
- Help plan and implement a community outreach program to low-income children.
- Other duties as assigned.

**Education/Experience:**

- Enrolled in a degree-seeking field related to early childhood education.
- Comfortable spending up to three hours at a time outdoors, in all weather conditions.
- Demonstrated verbal and written skills.
- Comfortable with word processing and other computer and internet-based programs.

**Work Requirements:**

Candidate will be required to complete and pay for the following (to be reimbursed after 90 days):

- A rigorous background check (\$18), including fingerprinting (\$33.25)
- Food Handler's Permit (\$30)
- Infant and Child CPR/First Aid Certification (\$55)

**Internship Requirements:**

- Plan curriculum for 4 weeks - one week each month
- Write a 4-page plan for community outreach to low-income families
- Demonstrate ability to lead 8 daily lesson plans
- Demonstrate ability to assess student needs, goals, and progress

**Supervision:**

This position reports to the site supervisor.

**To apply:**

Submit resume, cover letter, and transcripts to [melissa.west@wonderbloom.org](mailto:melissa.west@wonderbloom.org).